- 57 -

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network system capable of preventing the leakage of a confidential file by an inadvertent act of a transmitting party and capable of meeting the requirement for an arbitrary file format is disclosed. A label indicating a security level ("confidential" or "unclassified") is attached to the file in a client terminal, which transmits the labeled file outside. A transmission management program on a gateway server checks the label of the file, and in the case where the security level is "unclassified", transmits the file to an external network. Also, a label management program manages the labeled file in the client terminal.